

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 AF-10 /158 W

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R 291507Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2333

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2518

ALGIERS AND GENEVA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENTS ON SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MID EAST RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL
COMMENTARY IN ISRAELI PRESS APRIL 28-29.

2. HAARETZ EDITORIAL APR 28 WARNED THAT SINCE DR. KISSINGER
HAD TAKEN A CENTRAL ROLE IN MID EAST PEACEMAKING, THERE WAS
SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT IN ADOPTION OF US ATTITUDES REFLECTED
IN RECENT US ACTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL (I.E. US HAD TAKEN
STEP AWAY FROM ISRAEL IN DIRECTION OF ARABS). EDITORIAL NOTED
SIGNS POINTING OTHER WAY, SUCH AS LIBERAL ECONOMIC
AID TO ISRAEL AND SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON
ON US COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. EDITORIAL URGED GOVT NOT BE
"TAKEN IN" BY KISSINGER'S "TACTICS," BUT TO CONSIDER DISENGAGEMENT

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ON MERITS.

3. UNDER HEADLINE, "NO SPEEDY TRIP FOR DR KISSINGER," GOLAN IN HAARETZ APRIL 28 DESCRIBED MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN POSITIONS ON SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT DR KISSINGER HAD DECIDED TO VISIT MID EAST DESPITE APPARENTLY UNBRIDGEABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES BECAUSE HE HAD GROUNDS TO BELIEVE ON BASIS PRIVATE TALKS THAT TWO SIDES ARE CLOSER TOGETHER THAN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATE. SECRETARY HOPED TO GET ISRAEL AND SYRIA TO AGREE TO HIS PROPOSAL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BEYOND KUNEITRA HILLS. ON ISSUE OF COMMITMENT TO FURTHER WITHDRAWALS AND NATURE OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN BUFFER ZONE, SECRETARY WAS RELYING ON HIS POWERS OF PERSUASION AND ABILITY TO PHRASE AGREEMENTS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. IN ANY CASE, NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE MORE PROTRACTED THAN IN CASE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

4. JERUSALEM POST APRIL 28 SAID THAT SECRETARY BELIEVED ON BASIS HIS TALKS WITH SYRIANS AND OTHER ARAB REPRESENTATIVES THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE DAMSCUS TO ACCEPT HIS PROPOSAL ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM KUNEITRA HILLS AND WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT ISRAEL WOULD AGREE. SECRETARY, ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, SUPPORTED ISRAELI STAND AGAINST (A) STATIONING UN OBSERVERS IN BUFFER ZONE RATHER THAN UNEF AND (B) INCLUSION IN SEPARATION AGREEMENT OF ISRAELI OBLIGATION FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWALS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. FINAL CABINET DECISION NOT EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER OVERALL PROPOSAL BY SECRETARY HAS BEEN HEARD.

5. IN YEDIOT APRIL 28, ZIMUKI STATED THAT DURING DR KISSINGER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL, MAIN CLARIFICATIONS WOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON QUESTION OF FUTURE OF KUNEITRA. WITHIN GOVT VARIOUS OPINIONS HAD BEEN HEARD CONCERNING ISRAELI PROPOSALS. PM MEIR WAS INCLUDED AMONG THOSE SUPPORTING FIRM STAND, WHILE DEFMIN DAYAN BELONGED TO GROUP FAVORING FLEXIBILITY.

6. AL HAMISHMAR APRIL 29 BELIEVES THAT DESPITE JERUSALEM'S MISGIVINGS ABOUT TREND TOWARD US-ARAB RAPPROACHMENT AND ITS EFFECT ON US-ISRAELI RELATIONS, IT SEEMS NOT BE INTENDED AT THIS STAGE TO LINK QUALITY OF THOSE RELATIONS WITH POSITION ISRAEL WILL ADOPT IN DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. THIS
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TOPIC, HOWEVER, WILL NO DOUBT BE FIRST POINT IN TALKS WITH DR KISSINGER.

7. DAVAR EDITORIAL APRIL 29 STATES THAT EVEN WITHOUT SYRIA SHOOTING, ISRAEL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND BE WILLING TO PAY TERRITORIAL PRICE FOR IT-- BUT NOT BEYOND REASONABLE LIMITS. EDITORIAL NOTES SECRETARY'S EFFORTS IN REACHING AGREEMENT MADE DIFFICULT BY SOVIETS WHO ARE DETERMINED EITHER TO PREVENT IT OR TO TURN IT INTO ACHIEVEMENT FOR THEMSELVES.

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